

## **HERSETH SANDLIN SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TARGETING IRANIAN NUCLEAR CAPACITY**

**December 15, 2009, Washington, DC**

**Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "This legislation diminishes the ability of Iran to acquire the resources necessary to continue developing nuclear weapons, and sends a clear message to the international community that the United States is serious about forcing Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment program."**

**While rich in oil, Iran lacks domestic refining capacity and currently imports more than 25 percent of its supply of gasoline and other refined petroleum products. This legislation strengthens existing laws by giving the President the power to impose sanctions against companies that supply Iran with – or support its domestic production of – gasoline and other refined petroleum products. Such companies would be denied access to the U.S. market.□ Limiting Iran's ability to acquire gasoline and other refined petroleum products will have a direct effect on Iran's economy, limiting the country's ability to acquire or develop nuclear weapons.**

**The legislation does not require the President to implement these sanctions, but gives him the authority to do so if he feels it is necessary.**

**Specifically, the bill amends and reauthorizes the Iran Sanctions Act (PL 109-293).□ In amending the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA), this bill mandates that any company be barred from the U.S. market if it:**

- Sells, leases, or provides Iran any goods, services, technology, information or support that would allow Iran to maintain or expand its domestic production of refined petroleum products; or**
- Provides Iran with refined petroleum products or engages in an activity that could contribute to Iran's ability to import refined petroleum resources.**

**Under H.R. 2194, the President could choose to waive sanctions, just as he can under current ISA law.**

**This bill also closes existing loopholes in the Iran Sanctions Act regarding investigations of sanctionable activities and subsequent determinations. It requires the President to investigate a company upon receipt of credible information that such company is engaged in sanctionable activity and to make a determination within 180 days of commencing such an investigation as to whether the company is, in fact, engaged in sanctionable activity. Currently, the President is not required to commence or conclude an investigation, or even to make a determination regarding sanctionable activities.**

**"Our nation must be realistic when dealing with countries such as Iran, and respond to the growing threat from the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery," Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "This includes support for nonproliferation efforts and missile defense programs, diplomatic efforts, and appropriate economic tools such as the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act."**

**Under current law, the Iran Sanctions Act (PL 109-293) would expire on December 31, 2011. The legislation passed today extends the Iran Sanctions Act through December 31, 2016.**

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**-Today, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2194, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, by a strong bipartisan margin. This legislation, which was co-sponsored by Rep. Herseth Sandlin, targets Iran's reliance on foreign refining capacity to impel the country to abandon its uranium enrichment program.**